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HOME OF

September 22, 1969

Lincoln Debate

Lincoln Cabin

Lincoln Graves

Moore House

Matson Case

Charleston Riot

Hanks Graves

Fox Ridge Park

Coles County Fair

Five Mile House

Indian Uprising

Lincoln Reservoir

Coles County
Court House

Curator
Lincoln Life In.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

I have been told a great deal about the museum you have developed and that it is the largest Lincoln museum in existence.

Perhaps you would be interested in the Lincoln Lore of Coles County, Illinois.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing some of our material in the hope that you will find it interesting and informative.

Should you have the opportunity, we would welcome your visit to Charleston, so you may visit the places we tell you something about in our literature.

Sincerely,

William O. Browning
William O. Browning
Executive Vice President

WOB:bb

enclosures

Home of
Eastern Illinois
University Campus

Several Industrial
Sites Available



St. Paul, Minn 11-23-70

Statue 62 feet tall

Sculptor - Robert E. Ebert of
St. Paul, Minn

Dedicated May 26, 1969

Photo Taken by Robert E. O'Reilly on
above date 11-23-70
Bob's car at base of statue

Like a good wine, Civil War romance improves with age

By DAVID A. GORAK

One warm summer afternoon, about 40 years ago, 16-year-old Daniel Lapinski and several friends were bicycling by the Elmwood Cemetery in River Grove, Ill.

Motivated by a curiosity that seems to burn the brightest in youth, the group rode through the cemetery gates and began examining the various gravestones. Several hundred feet inside the gates, Mr. Lapinski noticed a strange looking marker that stands about 30 feet high. Erected by the Grand Army of the Republic in the early part of this century, it honors the memory of those Union soldiers and sailors who served during the Civil War. (There are 178 GAR graves in the cemetery.)

Engraved on the base of the memorial are the names of battles that were spawned from what some have called "The Brothers' War": Cold Harbor, Shiloh, Manassass Junction, Gettysburg, Monitor and Merimac and Island No. 10. It was this last battle, fought in the spring of 1862 on the Mississippi River about 40 miles below Columbus, Ky., that sparked Mr. Lapinski's interest in the Civil War.

He began reading feverishly about the Civil War as a high school student. "And I've been studying the war ever since," says

Mr. Lapinski, now president of a plumbing supply company in Melrose Park.

Ironically, Americans continue to be fascinated by their Civil War more than 100 years after Abraham Lincoln told an audience at Gettysburg that "...The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here..." Students of the war gather at regular intervals in Chicago, as well as in other parts of the nation, to discuss that great conflict during meetings of their respective Civil War Round Tables (CWRT). The Chicago chapter, founded in 1941, boasts more than 200 members.

Mr. Lapinski currently is involved with several friends in searching for what has been passed off as the "mummy of John Wilkes Booth." Mr. Lincoln's assassin. The corpse had circulated around the country for many years as a carnival attraction before disappearing in the late 1930s. Although there is no truth to the story surrounding the mummy, it remains a fascinating aspect of a most exciting period in American history.

"Some guys," observes Mr. Lapinski, "rely on bowling or sitting around at the corner bar. I enjoy studying the Civil War."

One of his prized possessions is a 90-pound artillery shell of the type fired from Union gunboats. "I

had it sitting next to the fireplace for 7 years before a friend informed me that it still contained its full complement of black powder. Had it gone off," Mr. Lapinski said with a sheepish grin, "we would have been lucky to have salvaged the foundation of the house."

A subsequent call to the U.S. Naval Ordinance led to the shell's deactivation. It later was returned to the much relieved owner with a handsome brass plate affixed to it.

Immediately following the war, John Brooks Davis, a young private with the 3rd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, was assigned to Fort Monroe in Virginia, where his company was given the task of guarding the imprisoned ex-Confederate president, Jefferson Davis.

Today, his grandson (who bears the same name) is manager of Baker Knapp & Tubbs' showroom in the Merchandise Mart. The company manufactures and wholesales fine furniture.

"During his tour of duty at the prison," Mr. Davis noted, "my grandfather discovered that he and Jefferson Davis were cousins." Among Mr. Davis' memorabilia is a collapsible brass candlestick holder which was allegedly given to his grandfather by the former president of the Confederacy. "It was given to him as a



Brooks Davis displays some of the Civil War memorabilia that he has been collecting for more than 25 years.

symbol of their friendship," Mr. Davis said.

A former president of the Chicago CWRT, Mr. Davis attributes his interest in the war to his grandfather's role in it, but adds that he was fortunate to have had as a youth "good teachers who recommended good books to me."

C. Robert Douglas and Glen Wiche were both initially fascinated by the personalities of the period, like Robert E. Lee, William Tecumseh Sherman and "Stonewall" Jackson.

Mr. Douglas, an account executive with the insurance firm of Rollins Burdick Hunter Co., 10 S. Riverside Plaza, became enthralled as a youth the first time he read about General Lee. A member of the Chicago CWRT for 27 years, Mr. Douglas finds the people of the Old South extremely "interesting and romantic." Mr. Douglas believes that some of these personalities were larger than life itself, and thinks that many Southerners viewed General Lee as a "deity."

Mr. Wiche, owner of the London Book Shop, 79 W. Monroe St., began attending CWRT meetings here with his father at the age of 14. Stimulated by general readings in American history, Mr. Wiche became a devoted student around 1960 when he learned of the Confederate Historical Society, in London, England. "I was really intrigued to learn that the English were interested in the Civil War," he said.

Later readings led to a love affair with British history and furthered his interest in the war. (The English were outspoken supporters of the Confederacy and manufactured some of the latter's war materiel.)

But not all students of the Civil War focus their attention on the military aspects of the period. Mike Lerner, an ad salesman for the Booster Newspapers, 1647 W. Belmont Ave., has devoted his life to the study of the social, economic and political events of the period. For many years he has conducted tours of the historical sites in the Chicago area and lectured on the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

His love of the subject was nurtured by his father, who also admired Mr. Lincoln. Mr. Lerner sees himself as a private eye, who loves "to haunt cemeteries and libraries" in search of the ordinary people and the roles they played during the war.

"People make ideas," he argues, "and people make wars." He notes that some members of the CWRT spend all their time studying the various battles or in some cases, only one. "For example," he laments, "a guy may focus only on the second day at Gettysburg and he doesn't care about the first and third days. History should focus on people. I don't give a damn about battles."

Was the war necessary? Did the North take up arms solely because of the moral aspects of the slavery issue? Or was it because a growing industrial Northeast had entered on a collision course with an agrarian South? These are some of the



Dan Lapinski sits before the GAR Memorial that sparked his interest in the Civil War as a youth.

questions that are bantered about during meetings of Civil War students.

Students of history have always had their detractors and one of the most difficult questions they have had to face is the one which asks, "Why worry about the past?"

Perhaps the answer is to be found in the words of Marcus Cicero, the great Roman orator and statesman, who said, "To remain ignorant of the past is to remain as a child."

(Membership in the Chicago CWRT is open to those who have an interest in the Civil War. For additional information, contact Ward C. Smid, 766-7230, or Marshall Krolick, 332-5060.)

At \$10 an inch

Lincoln's farm is for sale

By DAVID A. GORAK

Approximately 8 miles south of Charleston, Ill., there are 4 acres of unusual farm land that are worth, at the very least, \$251 million. That's \$62.7 million per acre.

(The current asking price for an acre of top grade farm land in central Illinois is a paltry \$3,000-\$3,500 by comparison.)

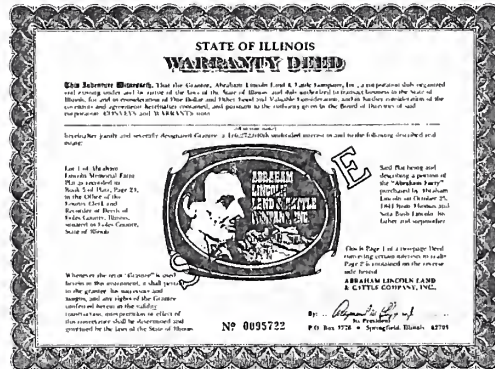
Gold hasn't been discovered on those 4 acres nor did a farmer awake one morning to see oil bubbling up in his cornfield. The parcel of land is part of a 40-acre farm once owned by Abraham Lincoln.

Since the summer of 1976, Abraham Lincoln Land & Cattle Co. in Springfield has been selling the land in portions equal to about 1 square inch. The least expensive deed is selling for \$10, but deeds with low serial numbers can cost between \$35 and \$95.

Individuals owning 1 square inch of the land have access to an entire acre of the 4-acre site and can "visit it, walk about on it, even camp on it," according to one of the company's ads.

Raymond W. Phipps, president of Abraham Lincoln Land & Cattle Co. and a descendant of one of Mr. Lincoln's neighbors, said that present plans call for the sale of only 4 acres.

Mr. Phipps said that he would like to convert the remaining acreage into a "pioneer farm" that would be worked with mid-19th century tools by a family dressed in period clothing. He said several persons have offered to try their luck at raising vegetables, corn and cattle.



Owners of Abraham Lincoln's "Forgotten Farm" receive this deed, which fully guarantees ownership.

The property, known as the "Abraham Fort" or the Abraham Lincoln "Forgotten Farm," was originally purchased in 1837 from the federal government by John Davis Johnston, Mr. Lincoln's half-brother. In 1840, Mr. Johnston sold it to Abraham's father, Thomas, for \$50. Less than a year later, Thomas fell upon hard times and sold the property to the young Mr. Lincoln for \$200. This provided the future President's parents with a lifetime estate.

The farm remained in Mr. Lincoln's name even after his assassination in 1865 because the deed clearly reserved the parcel for the personal use of his parents. When Mr. Lincoln's stepmother, Sarah,

died in 1869, the farm was maintained by her grandson, John J. Hall, Mr. Phipps' grandfather.

Mr. Hall secured title to the property in 1888 because of undisputed "possession for more than 20 years."

The response to Mr. Phipps' offer has been favorable. To date, about 100,000 deeds have been sold or presented as premium gifts by realty companies, department stores, automobile dealers and fast food chains.

Proceeds go in part to the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Farm Foundation, which maintains the property and pays the required taxes. Monies also go to Shimer College in Mount Carroll, Ill. #



Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.
Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.

September, 1978

Number 1687

A "Great Fraud"? Politics in Thomas Ford's *History of Illinois*

Thirty years ago, historians thought Lincoln was most a statesman when he was least a man of party. In general, this meant that Lincoln the President was a statesman, but Lincoln the Whig politician was not. In the period from the late 1940s to the early 1960s, some historians celebrated the practical, compromising politician as the ideal statesman, and for this brief period Lincoln was often pictured as a statesman *because* he was a skilful politician. This new view never rebounded to the benefit of Lincoln's Whig years, though David Donald argued in 1959 that President Lincoln was merely a "Whig in the White House." The new appreciation for politicians did not extend to the Whig party, which was of little interest to liberal scholars who regarded its affection for banks and tariffs with disdain.

G.S. Boritt's *Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream* has at last rescued Lincoln's Whig years from the charge of narrow partisanship. But the reasons for the long reign of the view that Lincoln was a petty politician before the White House years have not been adequately explored.

One of the principal reasons is the heavy reliance historians have placed on Thomas Ford's *History of Illinois from Its Commencement as a State in 1818 to 1847* (Chicago: S.C. Griggs, 1854). It is an appealing book — a minor classic, in fact — written with economy, full of facts and descriptions nowhere else available, and brutally frank.

It is Ford's frankness which has had the greatest appeal. The tone of most nineteenth-century memoirs was pious and earnest rather than cynical, and nineteenth-century state histories were generally celebratory in nature. Ford's book, a state history written almost as a memoir by an active participant in much of the era he describes, is remarkable for its candor about

politics. Himself a politician (Ford was the Governor of Illinois from 1842 to 1846), he viewed the motives of most politicians with cynicism and spoke with the authoritative tone of an insider. Historians anxious for a reliable source which pierced through the customary platitudes and moralisms of nineteenth-century historical writing have devoured Ford's book.

For the early period of Lincoln's involvement with Illinois politics, Thomas Ford's *History of Illinois* is one of the most

important sources. It is quoted by everyone. Even Lincoln quoted from it. In the first of his famous debates with Stephen Douglas, at Ottawa on August 21, 1858, Lincoln argued that his opponent had not always bowed to the will of the Supreme Court as readily as he bowed to its will as expressed in the Dred Scott decision.

And I remind him of another piece of history on the question of respect for judicial decisions, and it is a piece of Illinois history, belonging to a time when the large party to which Judge Douglas belonged, were displeased with a decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois, because they had decided that a Governor could not remove a Secretary of State. You will find the whole story in Ford's *History of Illinois*, and I know that Judge Douglas will not deny that he was then in favor of overhauling that decision by the mode of adding five new Judges, so as to vote down the four old ones. Not only so, but it ended in *the Judge's sitting down on that very bench as one of the five new Judges to break down the four old ones.*

Again, when Lincoln met Douglas at Charleston on September 18th, a heckler asked Lincoln, who was defending Lyman Trumbull's reputation, what Ford's book said about him. Lincoln re-

HISTORY OF ILLINOIS.

FROM ITS

COMMENCEMENT AS A STATE IN 1818 TO 1847.

CONTAINING A

FULL ACCOUNT OF THE BLACK HAWK WAR, THE RISE, PROGRESS,
AND FALL OF MORMONISM, THE ALTON AND LOVEJOY RIOTS,
AND OTHER IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING EVENTS.

BY THE LATE

GOV. THOMAS FORD.

CHICAGO:

PUBLISHED BY S. C. GRIGGS & CO.,

111 LAKE STREET.

NEW YORK: IVISON & PHINNEY.

1854.

From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 1. Title page of Ford's *History of Illinois*.

plied: "My own recollection is, that Ford speaks of Trumbull in very disrespectful terms in several portions of his book, and that he talks a great deal worse of Judge Douglas."

Ford's *History of Illinois* has played an important role in documenting Lincoln's career. It is one of the principal sources for the charge that, as a member of Sangamon County's "Long Nine," Lincoln had traded support for local internal improvements for votes to move the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield. The book barely mentions Lincoln, however, and its real importance has lain in providing a picture of the political landscape of Lincoln's early career.

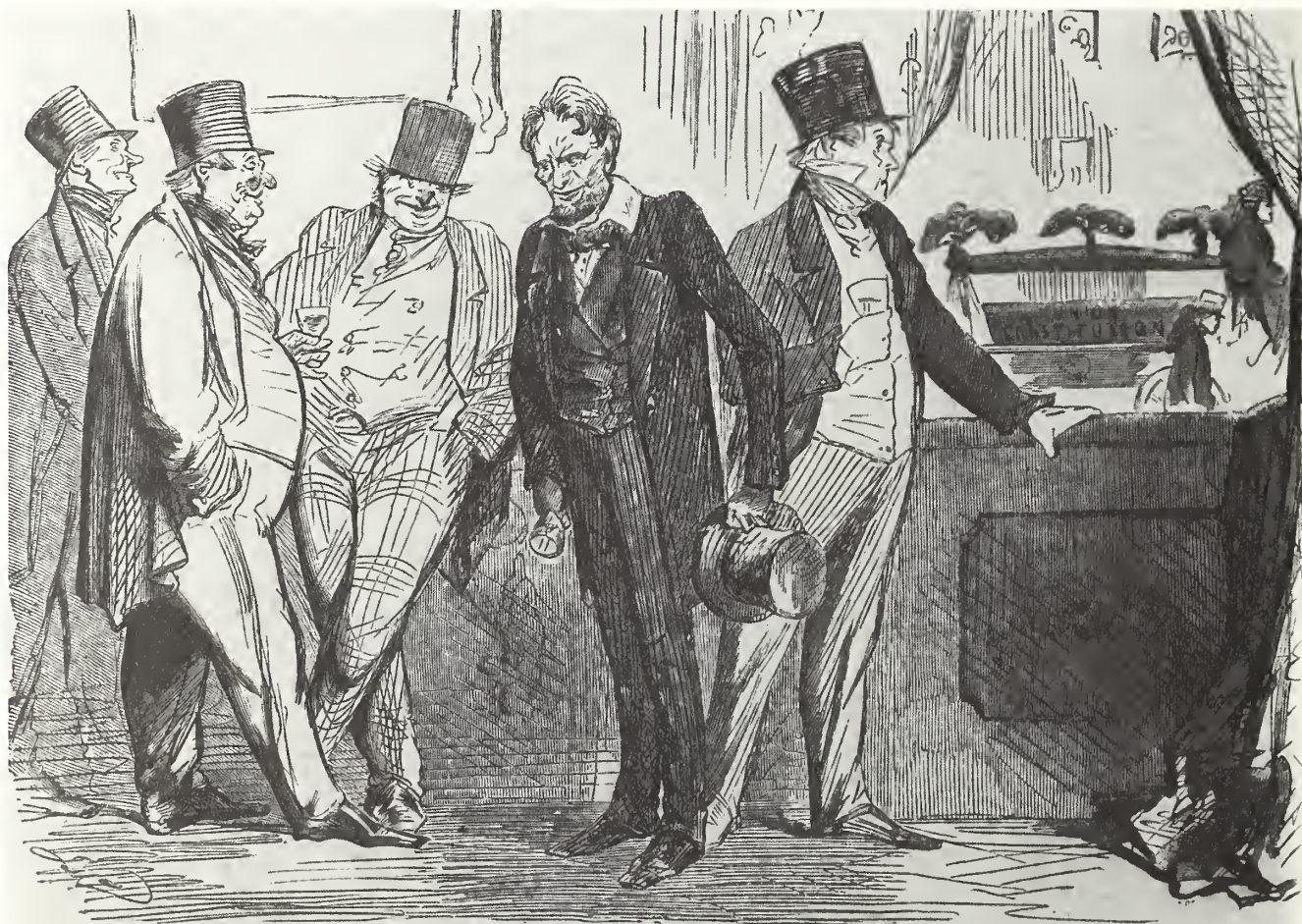
A good example of the book's use appears in the first volume of J.G. Randall's *Lincoln the President*:

The politicians' world in Illinois in the day of Lincoln's earlier career has been drawn from life in the vivid pages of Governor Thomas Ford. It was not an inspiring picture. Because of the want of true "issues" and the scramble for favor, as explained by Ford, an election became "one great fraud, in which honor, faith, and truth were . . . sacrificed, and politicians were debased below the . . . popular idea of that class of men." Government might mean one thing to the people; its purpose in the minds of politicians was another matter. They had a "destiny to accomplish, not for the people, but for themselves." With the people caring little for matters of government, said Ford, the "politicians took advantage of this lethargic state of indifference . . . to advance their own projects, to get offices and special favors from the legislature, which were all they busied their heads about." Politicians, he said, operated on the principle that "the people never blame any one for misleading them"; it

was merely a matter of supporting or opposing measures because of their popularity or unpopularity at the time. A "public man," said the governor, "will scarcely ever be forgiven for being right when the people are wrong." That was why "so many" politicians were "ready to prostitute their better judgments to catch the popular breeze." Whatever may have been the basis of parties in their early origin, Ford observed that "little big men, on both sides . . . feel the most thorough hatred for each other; their malice often supplying the place of principle and patriotism. They think they are devoted to a cause, when they only hate an opponent; and the more thoroughly they hate, the more . . . are they partisans." Party newspapers, he thought, promoted and perpetuated this unhealthy state of things.

Ford's candor about political motivation and his seeming nonpartisanship ("little big men" were "on both sides") persuaded many a student of Illinois history that politics were a sordid affair. Since Lincoln's life was thoroughly and inextricably enmeshed with Illinois politics, the result was that historians found in him, perhaps in less exaggerated form, the general attributes of Illinois politicians outlined by Thomas Ford.

The bitterness of Ford's disgust for politics and politicians was extraordinary and was not misrepresented by Randall and other Lincoln biographers who saw Lincoln's early political career as narrowly partisan and crafty. Ford introduces his theme in his discussion of the first Illinois legislature early in the book. "It appears," he said, "by the journals of this first legislature that a committee was appointed to contract for stationery, who reported that they had purchased a



OUR PRESIDENTIAL MERRYMAN.

The Presidential party was engaged in a lively exchange of wit and humor. The President Elect was the merriest among the merry, kept those around him in a continual roar."—*Daily Paper*.

From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 2. *Harper's Weekly* pictured Lincoln swapping stories with drinking politicians, as a hearse carrying the Union and the Constitution passed by.



FIGURE 3. *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* pictured the crowd of office-seekers who besieged Lincoln when his administration began.

From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

sufficient stock at the cost of \$13[.50]. For every dollar then paid, we now pay hundreds for the same articles; but this was in the days of real frugality and economy, and before any of the members had learned the gentlemanly art of laying in, from the public stock, a year or two's supply at home." Surveying the state's political history up to 1830, and "calling to mind the prominent actors in the scenes of that day, the fierce struggles and quarrels amongst them, the loves and the hatreds, the hopes, fears, successes and disappointments of men, recently, but now no more on the stage of action, one cannot but be struck with the utter nothingness of mere contests for office." The old and corrupt methods of politics were carried into the new state. "In those days," Ford said, "the people drank vast quantities of whiskey and other liquors; and the dispensation of liquors, or 'treating,' as it was called, by candidates for office, was an indispensable element of success at elections." The personal politics, intrigue, and disregard of the public welfare practiced in gaining election "were carried . . . into the legislature. Almost everything there was done from personal motives." Ford's message was simple: "Hitherto in Illinois the race of politicians has been more numerous and more popular with the people, than the race of statesmen."

Though Ford's views are exceptional for their disdain for the methods of politics, they have the ring of authenticity because of their lack of partisan flavor. Denunciations of politics and politicians in the nineteenth century were common, but they came most often as denunciations of the practices and practitioners of the opposite party. Ford spared almost no one; Democrat and Whig alike fell before his critical scythe.

Though nonpartisan in his criticism of politicians, Ford was nevertheless far from objective. His *History of Illinois* is colored by a prejudice not against any particular party but against parties themselves — or rather, against politics with or without parties. An especially revealing but little-known article on Ford's *History* in "The Illinois Bookshelf" column in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* for March, 1945, explains the reasons for Ford's peculiarly jaundiced views of the ways of politicians. Despite being an elected official himself, Ford's political success was achieved with a minimum of political effort. In 1835 the state legislature elected him circuit judge. In 1837 he became judge of the Chicago municipal court. In 1839 the legislature elected him circuit judge again, and in 1841 he joined the Illinois Supreme Court. In 1842 the Democratic candidate for governor died, and Ford replaced him with only ten weeks remaining before the election. Despite little time for campaigning, he won election in this overwhelmingly Democratic state. Thus, Ford

served as Illinois's governor without much campaigning and without ever having seen the state legislature at work. What he saw when he gained office must have shocked him. Another factor was Ford's long, painful, and losing battle against tuberculosis. He wrote his *History* in order to gain money for his five children, made indigent by his inability to make a living during his illness. The *History* embodies the bitter observations of a dying man. Ford died in 1850, leaving his manuscript with James Shields, who finally found a publisher for it in 1854.

Despite Ford's shock and disdain for politics, when he wrote his *History*, he could think of no better system than the one he had experienced. In fact, one could legitimately read Ford's book as a sober defense of the two-party system and an attack on the sophistication of the electorate. Throughout his *History*, Ford insisted "that, as a general thing, the government will be a type of the people." Whenever he denounced politicians and politics, he qualified his criticism by laying the ultimate blame on the ignorance or indifference of the people who elected them.

Likewise, when he criticized the political system, he often noted that the alternatives to it were far inferior. Discussing the period in Illinois before the emergence of two-party politics, Ford said:

There are those who are apt to believe that this mode of conducting elections [by personal rather than party contests] is likely to result in the choice of the best materials for administering government. . . . The idea of electing men for their merit has an attractive charm in it to generous minds; but in our history it has been as full of delusion as it has been attractive. Nor has the organization of regular parties, and the introduction of the new principle in elections of "measures not men," fully answered the expectation of its friends. But if the introduction of such parties, supposed to be founded on a difference in principles, has done no other good, it has greatly softened and abated the personal rancor and asperity of political contests, though it has made such contests increasing and eternal. It is to be regretted, however, if there be evils attending the contests of party, that society cannot receive the full benefit from them by the total extinction of all mere personal considerations, personal quarrels, and personal crimination, not necessary to exhibit the genius and tendency of a party as to measures, and which are merely incidental to contests for office. The present doctrine of parties is measures, not men, which if truly carried out would lead to a discussion of measures only. But parties are not yet sufficiently organized for this; and, accordingly, we find at every election much personal bitterness and invective mingled with the supposed contests for

principle. . . . Perhaps the time may come when all these personal contests will be confined to the bosom of one party, in selecting the best candidates to carry out its principles. Ford could thus complain that parties were inadequately organized and denounce a party-less system, the dream of many an elitist critic of American politics.

Ford had no illusions about the workings of party politics; yet he recognized parties as, at worst, a necessary evil. He had a realistic view of party discipline:

The organization of men into political parties under the control of leaders as a means of government, necessarily destroys individuality of character and freedom of opinion. Government implies restraint, compulsion of either the body or mind, or both. The latest improvement to effect this restraint and compulsion is to use moral means, intellectual means operating on the mind instead of the old mode of using force, such as standing armies, fire, sword and the gibbet, to control the mere bodies of men. It is therefore a very common thing for men of all parties to make very great sacrifices of opinion, so as to bring themselves into conformity with the bulk of their party. And yet there is nothing more common than for the race of newspaper statesmen to denounce all such of the opposite party as yield their own opinions to the opinions of the majority, as truckling and servile. They may possibly be right in this. But undoubtedly such submission is often necessary to the existence of majorities, entertaining the same opinion. A little further experience may develop the fact, that when this means of securing majorities shall fail, the government will fall into anarchy.

Unlike many critics of politics and parties, Ford had no fear of majority will. His basic complaint was that majorities were poorly formed and represented, and that bipartisan measures frustrated any responsibility of politician or party to people. His criticism of the Internal Improvements Act of 1837, often pointed to as a glaring example of Lincoln's narrow Whig partisanship, was that it was advocated and passed as a bipartisan measure for the good of the whole state. "The vote in the legislature was not a party vote," said Ford, and

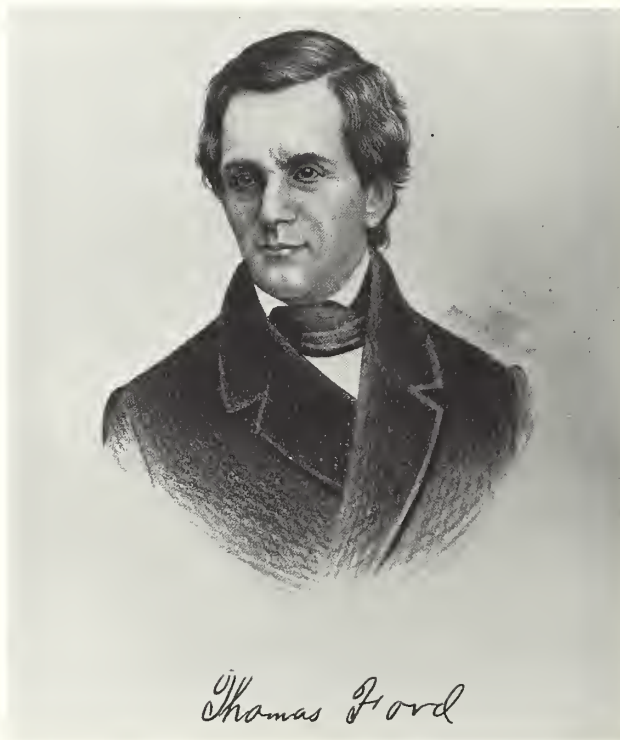
the banks were advocated and supported upon grounds of public utility and expediency; and like on the vote upon the internal improvement system, which followed at the next session, both whigs and democrats were earnestly invited to lay party feelings aside, and all go, at least once, for the good of the country. Whenever I have heard this cry since, I have always suspected that some great mischief was to be done, for which no party desired to be responsible to the people. As majorities have the power, so it is their duty to carry on the government. The majority, as long as parties are necessary in a free government, ought never to divide, and a portion of it join temporarily with the minority. It should always have the wisdom and courage to adopt all the measures necessary for good government. As a general thing, if the minority is anything more than a faction, if it has any principles, and is true to them, it will rally an opposition to all that is done by the majority; and even if it is convinced that the measures of the majority are right, it is safest for the minority to compel the majority to take the undivided responsibility of government. By this means there will always be a party to expose the faults and blunders of our rulers; and the majority will be more careful what they do.

Here Ford advocated the ultimate in the partisan ideal, the benefits of opposition to one party's program even when it seems to be a very proper program. This plea for disciplined, but responsible majorities looked forward to the proposals to institute in America cabinet government on the British model, proposals which were widely put forward towards the end of the nineteenth century.

As a theoretical commentator on the nature of party politics, Ford was unusual in his thoroughgoing defense of disciplined party majorities. In other respects, of course, he was a typical Democrat of his era. He thought that "no farmer ought ever to borrow money to carry on his farm." He blamed the internal improvements mania on "the general desire of sudden and unwarrantable gain; a dissatisfaction with the slow but sure profits of industry and lawful commerce, produced a general phrenzy." His ideal political system looked back to the storybook democracy of the early New England town:

My own opinion of the convention system is, that it can never be perfect in Illinois, without the organization of little township democracies, such as are found in New York and New England; that in a State where the people are highly intelligent, and not indifferent to public affairs, it will enable the people themselves to govern, by giving full effect to the will of the majority; but among a people who are either ignorant of or indifferent to the affairs of their government, the convention system is a most admirable contrivance to enable active leaders to govern without much responsibility to the people.

Thomas Ford's very good book has been used to very bad effect. Historians have used its strictures on the unsavory motives and methods of politicians to criticize political parties; yet Ford was himself a staunch defender of party politics. The book has been mined by historians but generally misread by them. Showing almost a tenderfoot's pique at the methods of state legislators, Ford has been seen as an unimpassioned and objective observer of party politics. The book should be used carefully by students of Lincoln's early political career, but it should be used. It deserves a better fate than historians have thus far allowed it.



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 4. Thomas Ford as pictured in the *Portrait and Biographical Album of Sangamon County, Illinois*.

Lincoln Lore Is Alive Around

Tri-State Traveler — Oct. 23, 1982 — 41

Coles County, Ill.

by Sallie Bristow

The area around Charleston in Coles County Illinois is alive with Lincoln history. Back in the 1940's it was first discovered by the WPA Project workers that Lincoln actually walked and traveled the area. And that his folks lived in that section on various farms after coming back from a hard winter in Macon County, Ill. With much research, done as a way to give needed employment in those days, it was found that many of the actual sites were gone.

So markers were erected to tell visitors that the Lincoln family had lived and farmed the very ground they were traveling. Lincoln came that way when traveling the Circuit, and visited his widowed mother at the Moore home in Farmington in 1861 before leaving for his inauguration in Washington.

Throughout the years the site of the Moore Home and the Goosenest Prairie cabin home have been restored and have become state parks. But it is hoped further study and plans will be made. Archeologists would like to study the sites for foundations or markers of barns, outhouses, and fencerows. The Goosenest Prairie Cabin where the Lincoln family lived dates back to the 1840's. Although Abe remained behind in Macon County when the family started back to Indiana, but decided with the encouragement of friends to settle at Goosenest Prairie, the site is an historical landmark. Just as nearby Shiloh Cemetery where Abe's father and step-mother are buried.

When Abe visited his step-mother before going to Washington, they made a trip to Shiloh to visit his father's grave. The Moore home where he visited was owned by Ruben Moore and his wife Matilda who was Lincoln's stepsister. The house has been restored and is open to visitors. Farmington might have been a prosperous farming community at one time, but is now just a marker beside the road, a few houses, and the restored Moore home which has proved a popular tourist attraction.

With financing often a problem, many of the plans for the sites have been shelved. And there is still hope of finding old pictures of both the Moore Home and Goosenest Prairie that would help in restoring the buildings to as near the ori-

Interest in the work has brought to light many handed down tales. Such as the story said to be told by Ave that the family moved so often, when the chickens saw them packing the furniture the animals would lie on their backs, feet in the air, ready to be tied. Or the story told by three granddaughters of a resident of Farmington. Their grandmother had been a friend of Matilda Moore and told of her abilities to prepare delicious meals. Such as was prepared for that day when Lincoln visited. Everyone gathered to help prepare a grand dinner. It had to be 'just right' for the future President of the United States.

When, and if, the restoration project does get started, there is hope that a local supplier can hew the logs to give them the appearance of having been erected in the 1800's. The barn erection will be a special event, known as a 'barn raising'. It was a popular project and event for a get-together in pioneer days. The old-fashioned way of doing the work will be carried out, with the public invited to see just how a barn was built in the 1800's. When finished there will be horses and oxen and even farming as Thomas Lincoln did it when he lived at Goosenest Prairie. Over at the Moore home in Farmington, plans are to be followed to recreate the root cellar. Along with pasture that the Moores used for livestock. The Moore home covered two and one-half acres, or 8 city blocks. But until the restoration can be funded, a group of young people are carrying on the traditions of the Lincoln family by living in the two homes and showing visitors how the Lincoln family managed.

At Goosenest Prairie there's an 86 acre park, with split rail fence, shady picnic areas, and of course the historic home to visit. The Cabin West Room provided sleeping quarters. Bed with rope springs and either goose down, straw, or

corn shuck mattresses. Plus hand woven coverlets. The molds can be seen that made the only light — candles. In the Cabin East Room cooking was done over an open fire in the fireplace with baking done in a dutch oven on the hearth. At one time during the 1840's there were 12 people living in the small cabin. Tom and Sarah and Sarah's children and grand children.

Visitors can see a lilac bush thought to have been planted by the Lincoln family. There's the garden, orchard and crops. Planting then, and now are done with historically correct plant varieties like an open-pollinated "Indian corn". The root cellar, dug into the hillside was the place where vegetables and fruits were stored

in an almost constantly cooled temperature. Both the fruit cellar and the well have been reconstructed just as it is hoped other buildings can be in the future.

The Ash Hopper is a novelty to young people who never heard of saving lye from wood ashes to make homemade soap.

The group of young people now supervising the two sites take groups on to answer questions, and live, eat, cook, and survive very much as the Lincoln family did.

Springhaven to become Lincoln-oriented resort complex

By **NATHANIEL WEST**, Staff Writer

CHARLESTON -- The last time state Rep. Chapin Rose visited Springhaven, he was in seventh grade.

"That slide looked a lot bigger then," he said.

And the water slide to which he was referring is only one of the many elements of the old campground east of Charleston that will be refurbished or demolished to make way for a host of new amenities as part of an ambitious Abraham Lincoln-themed resort.

On Friday, the Charleston-based Graywood Foundation unveiled its plans to local and state leaders for the new multi-million dollar Lincoln Springs Resort, the construction of which has already begun and will expand even more next week.

"We're not going to build a Disneyland," said Augustine Oruwari, president of the Graywood Foundation, which operates group homes for the developmentally disabled.

"The goal is, we want a place that is affordable. It is something a family could come to, and everybody would have something to do."

The resort will be constructed in two phases, the first of which should be completed gradually in the spring and summer of 2006, according to Oruwari, who hopes the second phase will be finished the following year.

When fully operational, the resort will employ about 130 full- and part-time workers, including approximately 40 disabled people, said Oruwari.

The Graywood Foundation has already invested \$1.6 million converting the campground's stables into offices and conference rooms. The total cost of phase one is expected to surpass \$2.7 million, Oruwari reported.

Phase two could run as much as \$1.9 million, he added.

The former Springhaven campground, acquired by the Graywood Foundation in 2002, is best known as the site of a 72-foot-tall statue of Lincoln. The statue is undergoing repairs and will eventually be joined by almost a dozen other life-size chainsaw carvings of the president in an area to be known as "Abe's Garden."

The 120-acre site is located on Illinois Route 16 about three miles east of Charleston, and it features a 40-acre lake and forested hills.

In addition to the new offices, phase one of the project will incorporate:

- A new "family fun center" (the old center will be torn down this week) with a food court, arcade games, an indoor playground, gift shop, and meeting rooms;
- An 18-hole miniature golf course that may host regional and national tournaments;
- A zero-depth entry swimming pool (the existing water slide will be restored) and other water activities such as fishing, bumper boats and canoeing on the lake;
- Cabins and other accommodations for campers and recreational vehicles.

Phase two of the resort development may include more development around the lake, including the establishment of a Cajun-style restaurant and Lincoln museum, as well as the construction of additional cabins and recreational vehicle camp sites.

Oruwari said the addition of amenities will be ongoing.

"We're never going to stop developing or adding a new concept, or trying to reclaim an area that is not fully developed," he said.

Local and state leaders on Friday said they are optimistic about the future of the Lincoln Springs Resort.

"It's great," said state Sen. Dale Righter, R-Mattoon. "You can tell they've done herculean amounts of work in the last two years. They have a lot of big, impressive plans."

Righter noted that officials have long encouraged the development of the area's Lincoln heritage. "This would be an enormous step in that direction," he said.

"It's got all of the elements you would need for success."

Cindy Titus, executive director of the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce, said she is "impressed" by the work already completed at the future resort. "It's a beautiful, natural resource," she said. Oruwari "has got some real vision."

Rose, R-Mahomet, grew up in Charleston, and said he is "really glad to see someone take this over. I think the plans Graywood has developed will be a real asset to our community.

"It will take some time (but) ultimately this will be great for all of us."

Contact Nathaniel West at nwest@jg-tc.com or 238-6860.

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CHARLESTON, IL



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Friday September 30, 2005

Archives

Published on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 10:20 PM CDT

Step by step: Man walks trail of Lincoln's life

By DAVE FOPAY, Staff Writer

CHARLESTON -- A few weeks ago, Bob Willard woke up in a cabin in Kentucky, looked across a field through the morning mist and saw the building where Abraham Lincoln was born.

Further into his voyage, he gazed upon the place where the young Lincoln and his family left Kentucky for Indiana, part of a trek that Willard himself is trying to emulate.

"That was one of the more moving events, just to see the Ohio River," he said of the crossing from Kentucky. "You can imagine what was going through the mind of that 7-year-old boy."

Then, on Wednesday, the University Park, Md., man was in Charleston at the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum for another stop on his journey, fulfilling his lifelong interest in the 16th president by following the trek of Lincoln's life. Willard said Lincoln began to fascinate him shortly before the 1959 sesquicentennial of his birth.

"I think many people have hobbies where they collect things," he said. "I considered myself blessed. My collecting stuff was all about Abraham Lincoln. He was just an amazing person. To learn about this is a great hobby."

He started at Lincoln's birthplace on Sept. 10 and plans to end his trip in Springfield, walking most of the way as Lincoln himself did while etching the path of historic places that Willard is visiting.

Though he originally planned to walk the entire way, he said he's accepted rides and eliminated some stops in order to be able to spend more time in places where there's more to see, but he still had walked about 150 miles as of Wednesday.

A retired government worker, Willard said he discovered he had free time this month and decided the trip "was a good way to use it up." In addition to his interest in Lincoln's life and "the opportunity to do something out of the ordinary," he said the motivation for the trip included exercise, raising money and sending a message.

He's the president of an organization called the Abraham Lincoln Institute and received pledges to help fund the group's annual conferences on the latest in Lincoln research.

The museum at the Coles County Fairgrounds is the only site of the 1858 senatorial debates between Lincoln and Stephen Douglas Willard plans to visit.

He said he wanted to "use the occasion" of the stop to write to the Commission on Presidential Debates to propose some changes in future debates in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's and Douglas' exchanges. Namely, he said, he thinks at least one debate should take place at a Lincoln-Douglas site and the candidates should exchange statements, as Lincoln and Douglas did, instead of responding to questions.

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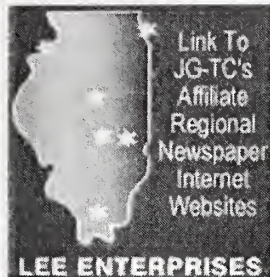
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Willard said he was impressed by the debate museum in Charleston.

"They do a great job capturing what the debates were all about," he said.

Willard said he was heading to Champaign after his visit to Charleston to spend some time with Lincoln materials at the University of Illinois library. He'll then go to Decatur, where Lincoln's family settled briefly before moving to southern Coles County, when they and Abraham parted ways.

Contact Dave Fopay at dfopay@jg-tc.com or 348-5733.

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Artist returnst to Charleston to refurbish her Abraham Lincoln mural

By ROB STROUD - H&R Staff Writer

CHARLESTON - Artist Diann Graham spent Monday getting reacquainted with an old friend on scaffolding more than 10 feet above a downtown parking lot.

The old friend is a mural of Abraham Lincoln arriving in Charleston for the last time, which Graham finished painting in 1999 and which is in need of a friend's assistance. The Charleston artist has started repainting cracked or faded portions of the mural on the west wall of Mike and Stan's bar, west of the courthouse square.

"The mural faces west, so it gets the brunt of the sun, and wind and rain pummel it," Graham said, adding that time as well as shifts in the Mike and Stan's building have taken a toll on the mural.

Graham, who works as an art teacher for the Arcola School District, said she is scraping off loose paint along the cracks and dusting off any dirt that has gotten underneath. Then she fills in the cracks with clear silicon putty and covers it with paint digitally matched to the adjacent surface of the mural.

"I am getting in there and fixing what has to be fixed due to the fractures and the weather," Graham said. "If we don't fix it now, it will get worse."

Graham also is repainting the gray winter sky the mural depicts above Lincoln as he departs a train to visit his mother here before departing for Washington, D.C., and the presidency. She said the original paint has faded from a low lustrous finish to a flat finish. The artist said revitalizing the sky above has given the ground below in the mural a fresh look.

The mural stretches 74 feet along the side of Mike and Stan's building and is 15 feet tall at its highest point. The mural starts 10 feet above a parking lot and stretches, so Graham will need to spend a lot of time on her scaffolding.

Graham estimated she spent more than 500 hours working on the mural "brush stroke after brush stroke" in 1999 and even more time the previous summer. She said the preservation work would be challenging but welcomed the opportunity to reconnect with her mural.

"It seems like yesterday I was working on it. It feels like an old friend," the artist said.

Graham said she is thankful the city of Charleston and building owners Mike Day and Stan Braden allowed the mural to be created and have committed to its preservation.

The city has been using money from its TIF and tourism funds since 1998 to support the creation of murals. The program's goal is to celebrate local history and attract visitors. TIF funds are also paying for the Lincoln mural's restoration.

"We agree with the city. We think this is a good attraction for tourists and our hometown citizens," Braden said. "We like (the mural), so we are trying to keep it up as much as we can."

Rob Stroud can be reached at rstroud@jg-tc.com or 348-5734.

Welcome
To
HISTORIC
CHARLESTON
"The Friendly City"



**A MAP OF THE CITY, E I U
CAMPUS AND HISTORIC TOUR**

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND MEMBER ADVERTISERS

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IN FILE

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WEARS A SOFT HAT ON SOME OC-

THE INCOGNITO DEBATER

OF CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

Riot in Charleston When Union Soldier and Copperhead Start Fight

March 29, 1864

Early in the morning squads of Copperheads came in town from various directions, armed and determined upon summary vengeance upon Union soldiers. During the day premonitions of the coming trouble were evident. Some of the soldiers about to return to their regiment, and having had a few drinks on the way, were ready for whatever might take place. About 3

o'clock a soldier, Oliver Sallee, stepped up to Nelson Wells, a young hot-headed Copperhead, placed his hand against him, and asked him if there were any Copperheads in town. Wells replied, "Yes, God d—n you, I am one!" Exactly what happened next is not clear, but both men drew and Wells missed with his first shot. In an instant Sallee was shot from another direction and



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Lincoln-Douglas Debate Issue of Slavery at Coles County Fair Grounds

September 17, 1858

Senator Stephen A. Douglas and Mr. Abraham Lincoln, noted attorney and congressman, will debate the issue of slavery in the new states at the Coles County fair grounds on September 18, 1858. There will be a parade for Mr. Lincoln from the railroad at Mattoon, organized by the Coles County Republican Party (newly organized).



THE TWO CONTESTANTS

"Douglas is no beauty," observed the correspondent of the New York Tribune, "but he certainly has the advantage of Lincoln in looks. Very tall and awkward, with a face of grotesque ugliness he (Lincoln) presents the strongest possible contrast to the thickset burly bust and short legs of the judge." Douglas is five feet two, deep chested and stocky. He wears a soft hat on some oc-

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The Copperheads were gathered at the southwest corner of the Court House, loading their firearms, and then would step out and fire at the soldiers with guns and revolvers. Having come fully armed, the Copperheads had vastly the advantage over the soldiers who were not expecting such an attack, and were for the most part unarmed. The soldiers hardly knew at whom to fire until they were fired upon. The Copperheads hurried to their wagons, hitched at the square, and gathered several guns from under the straw. The barrage had a terrible effect.

Thomas Jeffries was the next to fall, receiving an ugly wound in the neck. Wm. Gilman was shot by B. F. Dukes; the ball struck a rib on his left side and glanced off. Then Dukes was seen to fire at Col. Mitchell and afterwards declared that he had killed him. Colonel Mitchell received several shots through his clothes; one hit his watch and glanced off, producing only a slight flesh wound in the abdomen. Dr. York, surgeon of the 54th Illinois, while passing through the Court House was approached by someone from behind, who took deliberate aim and shot him dead, the pistol being held so close to him that the powder burned his coat. Dr. York was engaged in the affray in his professional capacity as surgeon, and in trying to restore order. A soldier, Al-

fred Swim, Co. G 5th Illinois, was shot and taken to Drs. Allen and Van Meter's office where he soon died. Wm. G. Hart, deputy provost marshal was shot in the head and vitals; his wounds were mortal. James Goodrich, Co. C 54th Illinois, received a severe wound in the abdomen which was fatal.

Col. Mitchell soon rallied all he could, citizens and soldiers, and improvising such arms as could be had, gathered them at the Southwest corner of the Square as the Copperheads retreated down the street, turning east. Dispatches were sent to Mattoon for soldiers, and three hundred were soon on the way. The Copperheads halted somewhere near Mrs. Dickinson's and remained for some time, then turned and went away. Beyond J. O'Hair's residence they gathered together, consulted for

a time and then moved off in a northeasterly direction, cutting the telegraph wires as they went.

About 5 o'clock the reinforcements from Mattoon arrived and while in the Court House yard, Mr. John Cooper from Salisbury was captured and brought in as a prisoner by Mr. W. A. Noe and a soldier. Mr. Cooper had taken an active part in the affray; when in front of Jenkins store, he attempted to escape, and when commanded to halt, refused to do so. Mr. Noe fired over Cooper's head, who in return fired at some of the soldiers. Orders were given to fire upon him, which was done, and he fell dead at Jenkins' door. Unfortunately, one of the balls passed through the closed door and struck Mr. John Jenkins in the groin, producing a mortal wound. Mr. Cooper was shot through

Lincoln-Douglas Debate Issue of Slavery at Coles County Fair Grounds

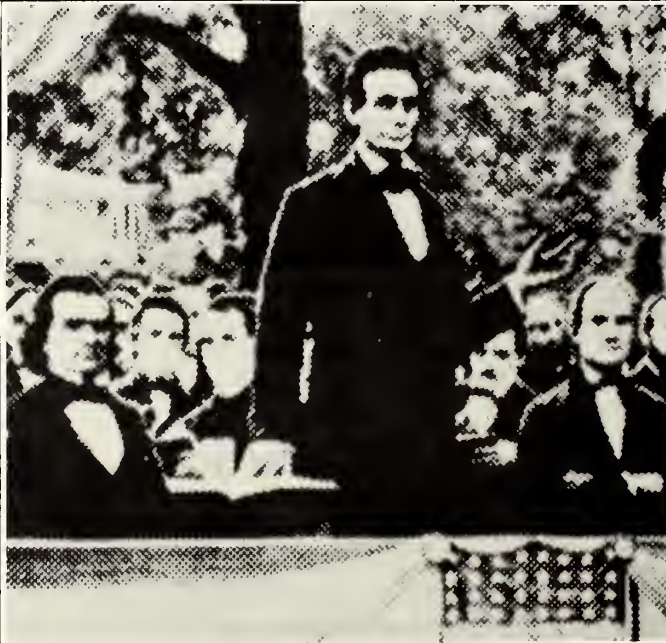
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THE TWO CONTESTANTS
"Douglas is no beauty," observed the correspondent of the New York Tribune, "but he certainly has the advantage of Lincoln in looks. Very tall and awkward, with a face of grotesque ugliness he (Lincoln) presents the strongest possible contrast to the thickest burly bust and short legs of the judge." Douglas is five feet two, deep chested and stocky. He wears a soft hat on some occasions and a stovepipe on others. He is, in short, a dresser of no mean proportions and given to many of the latest fashions. In sharp contrast is the meek and bearing of his opponent. His clothing is likely to be dusty and poorly pressed. He carries his belongings in a well-worn carpet bag. Lincoln is stoop shouldered in contrast to his very erect antagonist. While Douglas speaks in a deep rich baritone, Lincoln has a thin tenor, or rather falsetto voice, almost as high pitched as a boatswain's whistle. His words do not flow as do the judges' but he seems to sometimes go back to repair a flaw here or there . . ." (Horace White—The Lincoln Douglas Debates). But as Carl Schurz of Wisconsin has pointed out (an eye-witness) "the looks of the audience convince me that every word he speaks is understood at the remotest edge of the vast assemblage."

Tours of the sites included in this paper may be arranged.

the neck and shoulder, killing him.

Following the withdrawal of the Copperheads, rumors began to circulate that after receiving reinforcements they would return to attack Charleston. Actually the Copperheads were definitely "on the run," closely pursued by the scouting parties sent out by Colonel Mitchell.

Large Crowd Attends Funeral of Sarah Bush Lincoln

April 12, 1869

Sarah Bush Lincoln, who has been living with the Halls, died there at the age of 81 on April 10, 1869, having lived at Gooseneck Prairie for 29 years. Sarah was buried in a black woolen dress which Abraham Lincoln had given to her on his

last visit to Coles County in 1861. There was a great crowd at the funeral. The minister stood at the door of the cabin with the family seated inside and the neighbors standing outside. She was buried by the side of her husband, Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham, in the Shiloh Cemetery.

Tourist Information Centers

For the tourist entering Charleston there are five major access routes. Route 130 enters Charleston from the north and south, Route 16 enters from east and west and Route 316 also provides access from the west. The traveler will find Morton Park and a Tourist Information Center on Route 16 between Division street and Second street. Route 16 is found in the southern part of town. Information may also be obtained from the Charleston Chamber of Commerce located on Van Buren near the corner of Van Buren and Sixth streets, and block south of the Square. Brochures, travel suggestions and a warm welcome await you in our friendly city.

You may also plan to use the picnic facilities of the Charles Morton park before you visit some of the sites found below.

Debate Held ② At Fairgrounds

On Route 316 on the west side of Charleston is the Coles County fair grounds, site of the Lincoln-Douglas debate and oldest continuing fair in the State of Illinois.

The Debate Memorial Exhibit is located on the south central edge of the fairgrounds complex. Pictures of the Debate and the other six historic debates, replicas of historic documents relating to the debates, the stone marker and the small attractive hall wherein they are displayed, pay homage to the rich Lincoln heritage.

The Debate was scheduled for Saturday, September 18, 1858. The day before eager partisans began to stream into the little city.

The city was a beehive of that kind of excitement unique to the small town about to witness a major event in history. Large banners and bunting were to be found everywhere and an endless wrangling over trivia occupied the semi-significant dignitaries of the community.

Saturday dawned with clear skies and soon became warm. Clouds of dust at every confluence of farm roads told a story of wagons, horses and feet on the move. The farmers of Charleston, Dog Town, Greasy Point, Bloody Hutton, Paradise, Muddy Point, Buck Grove, Farmington, Goose nest Prairie, Pinhook were on their way to hear the dapper little senator and the tall slender "country boy" from Illinois.

There was only one place to hold such a spectacle, the **Coles County Fairgrounds**. People came in on trains from all four possible directions.

Lincoln arrived in Mattoon and came with considerable fanfare, pretty girls on floats and several bands.

Stephen A. Douglas, the "Little Giant" arrived on his

LINCOLN LOG CABIN



special campaign train. Lincoln proceeded to the Capitol House on the northwest side of the square of Charleston. Douglas went to the Union House directly across the street (that site now occupied by Charleston National Bank).

Both contestants had a light meal with their bands of faithful supporters before the two political processions proceeded to the fairgrounds. The crowd numbered about 12,000 and surrounded a raised platform 18 by 30 feet.

The platform faced east and the crowd was massed to the north, east, and south of the platform for it was not the usual custom for women to occupy such a place for political discussions.

Lincoln opened the Debate at 2:45 P.M. in the afternoon. He spoke for about an hour. He was followed by Senator Douglas who spoke for an hour and a half, and then Lincoln used the final half hour for rebuttal.

At the conclusion of the debate Lincoln and Douglas left the platform together. Douglas was joined by his wife whereas Lincoln's wife was not present in Charleston.

The debate itself was not unlike many such confrontations. Lincoln and Douglas affirmed similar positions on the question of slavery in the New States that they had taken throughout the seven debates. One of the most interesting aspects of Lincoln's presentation is that shrewd appeal he made to what would sway the local voters.

If Lincoln had been confined to such wisdom as was expressed at Charleston he would have been little more than a statehouse politician. There are however the seeds of that statesmanlike vision which have forever endeared him to his fellow countrymen and the whole world.

Old Cemetery ③

After leaving the debate site, proceed east on Madison street, cross the railroad tracks, turn left at the western edge of the cemeteries, walk through the Chambers cemetery, passing into the old town cemetery.

Here can be found the graves of Col. and Mrs. Augustus C. Chapman and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Friend Hanks. These four relatives of Abraham Lincoln played

a vital role in the Lincoln story.

Col. Augustus Chapman, officer in the Civil war and prominent Charleston resident, often entertained his friend, Lincoln, in his home. Mrs. Chapman was the daughter of Dennis and Elizabeth Hanks and one of the group traveling with the Lincoln party from Indiana to Illinois. Dennis F. Hanks was Lincoln's cousin and boyhood companion. While in Indiana he lived with the Lincolns and then married into the family, traveling with them to Illinois. He interceded in the Charleston Riot proceedings. He died at the age of 92 after being run down by a carriage on Emancipation Day. Elizabeth Johnson Hanks, wife of Dennis, half sister of Abraham Lincoln, daughter of Sarah Bush Lincoln, also shares in the Lincoln story from Pigeon Creek, Indiana, to the news of his assassination.

Here also can be found the graves of many early settlers, including Charles Morton, founding father of the city of Charleston—which bears his name Charles-(mor)-ton.

Court House Museum ④

Proceeding east to the Charleston Square, the court house and court house lawn mark the scene of a slavery trial involving Abraham Lincoln and also the scene of the only riot of the Civil War.

On the south side of the court house, just east of the court house door is the basement entrance to the Community Museum and Aquarium. The court house, scene of the Charleston Riot (see front page) is also remembered for the famous Matson Slave Case.

The wife and four children of Anthony Bryant, freedman by his residence in Illinois, had fled to the protection of Ashmore and Rutherford—abolitionists. Matson, a Kentuckian, brought damages against them and the slaves through his attorney, Usher Linder. Orlando Ficklin defended the slaves and their protectors. Lincoln was asked to serve on the case by both lawyers, but Linder asked first. The trial centered around the question of whether Matson was merely transporting them through the state or had brought them as residents of his

Black Grove farm.

The plaintiff's Lincoln made a skillful case for his client but the slaves were freed and client was to assume all costs. He departed paying no one including Lincoln.

The community museum features Lincoln's famous career, in pictures, the old bell that hung in the court house at that time, documents, memorabilia of the period, a reproduction of the riot, and an aquarium containing indigenous fish.

Gathers Lincoln Lore

Probably no single voice has been so consistent and dependable in the gathering and recording of the early Lincoln history in and around Charleston as Dr. Charles Coleman, professor of history at Eastern Illinois University and Lincoln scholar. Dr. Coleman and the Coles County Historical Society have helped the community both secure for posterity many treasured resources of the Lincoln period and also maintain a sense of proportion about what is historical and what is legendary in the stories and recollections connected with the period.

Dr. Coleman's books and monographs on the pertinent information about the Debate, Riot, Matson Slave Case, Parents of Lincoln, Coles County Civil War History, and the Lincoln Family's northward migration make excellent reading and a worthy resource for the serious student of the life of Lincoln.

Charleston's History

The settling of Charleston began in the 1820s with the brief settlement of the Parkers, whose tastes ran to Presbyterian Baptist preaching (unless they found a bee tree) and throwing round-house punches at each other. The first permanent settlement was made by Seth H. Bates in 1825 (who later moved on). Enoch Glassco and family came in 1826 and stayed until his death. In 1827 the sons of High John Parker settled here and in 1829 the man who was to plant the City of Charleston came to dwell.

Prisoner Tunnel ⑤

The museum also houses the entrance to the fascinating tunnel used to transport prisoners from the county jail to avoid the risk of mob violence which occasionally punctuated the early trials of Coles County. At the other end of the tunnel is a scaffold such as was used for the summary justice meted out both by the court and once or twice by an inflamed mob.

Tour the Land of Lincoln.

His name was Charles Morton and he first built a horse mill near what is now Charleston. The pioneer settlers came from miles around to grind their corn, blazing their trail to and from the mill, and playing marbles, and quoits, jumping and conducting foot races while they waited. Morton moved to the area now found between 6th and 7th streets and between Madison street and the railroad tracks. He built his store and a series of pole shacks which were known as the "Penitentiary." They were available to new settlers 3 months rent free. He built the first post office and had the first glass window in the area.

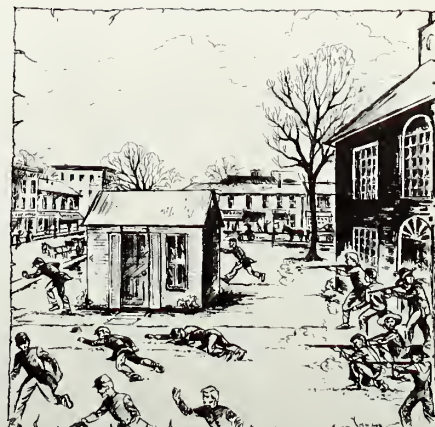
The first house in Charleston was built by William Colloom and was a tavern or inn designed to meet the needs of the traveler. Morton and Benjamin Parker donated twenty acres each for the establishment of the County Seat at Charleston.

The County Commissioners wanted to call the county seat Mortontown in honor of Morton but his wife suggested that instead they call it Charles (Mor)-ton in his honor and they did.

The first lawyer was Col. Ap. Dunbar (1831) Lincoln's deskmate in the State Legislature—1840s. The first industry was Eastin's Tan Yard. The carding machine of John Kennedy provided a means of carding wool. The first road was from Paris to Shelbyville. The first blacksmiths—Owen and Harman. The first school at Decker Springs—1828. And the first church was built in 1842.

Tours of the sites included in this paper may be arranged.

THE CHARLESTON RIOT



Eastern Illinois U. ⑥

A castle on the Rhine seems to loom over the landscape as the visitor approaches Charleston. It is no mirage — the ivory-adorned "castle" is Old Main, the campus landmark at Eastern Illinois University for nearly 70 years.

Founded in 1895, Eastern is the cultural center of Coles County and has many sights and events of interest for the visitor to this area.

The battlements of Old Main, a fine example of German Gothic architecture, tower over a campus of 266 acres and approximately 30 major buildings. Within Old Main's halls may be seen portraits of the only three men to serve as President since the University's founding. Eastern's President since 1956 has been Quincy Doud, na.

Exiting Old Main from the south, the newcomer is impressed by the quiet grace of a tree-lined campus. Floral gardens add a bright note of color during the summer months.

Visitors are welcome to examine Eastern's facilities. The museum and greenhouses at the Life Science building are open to the public. Various art works are on display both in the lobby of the Fine Arts Building and in the Paul Sargent Art Gallery in Booth Library. Classrooms in the Buzzard Laboratory School are open to individuals or small groups. The new Lantz Physical Education Building is one of the most attractive of its kind in the country, and is well worth a visit. The University Union, located in the heart of the campus, is a popular place both for relaxing and dining. Many of its facilities, including the snack bar and cafeteria, are open to the public.

There are many opportunities for entertainment, both at cultural and popular levels of taste. The University annually brings such attractions as Marian Anderson, Isaac Stern, the Norman Luboff Choir, Louis Armstrong, Roger Miller, and the Smithers Brothers to campus. Dramatic productions of high quality are produced by the Theater Arts Department. Musical concerts, athletic events, movies, and lectures are also a part of campus life. Most of these activities are open to the public, and many more are given during summer months than is commonly realized. Visitors may wish to write the Director of Information in advance for a list of activities scheduled during the time of their visit to Charleston.

Eastern was founded as a teacher education institution but has broadened into a multi-purpose university of approximately 6,000 students. Persons desiring to attend EIU should write the Director of Admissions for information.

Lake Charleston ⑦

Leaving Charleston on Rt. 130 South, is Lake Charleston where water skiing, swimming, fishing, and recreation can be enjoyed. This

MOORE HOUSE AT FARMINGTON



was the site of the first settlement of the county.

5-Mile House ⑧

Located at the corner of Route 130 and the Westfield Road, it was built in 1836 by Rhodes and Barry Martin who made the brick right there. Barry Martin was also the first owner. The building was originally a way-side tavern and a place to water horses and care for them.

In 1849 it served as an outfitting shop for travelers to the gold fields. It was run by a blacksmith named Stone.

A display of contemporary implements may be found in front of the house.

Fox Ridge Park ⑨

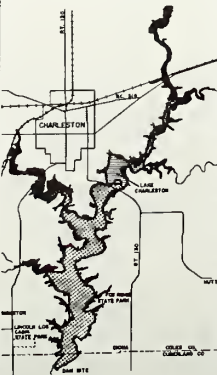
Fox ridge State Park borders the Embarrass River (pronounced "Ambraw") 7 miles south of Charleston on Route 130. It encompasses 751.8 acres of which Ridge Lake occupies 18 acres. Ridge lake is the first lake in which the Natural History Survey technicians have been able to control the water level at all times.

Camping sites, picnic areas, and fishing are a few of the attractions of this park. One point of interest is the deer pen where a number of native red, white-tail deer are kept.

For fishing on Ridge Lake, permission must be obtained from the Natural History Survey at the park. Boats are provided without cost and all catches are weighed and examined by the technicians for their scientific data.

Lincoln Reservoir ⑩

The proposed Lincoln Reservoir is to be located a few miles south of Charleston on the Embarrass River. The



main body of the lake will extend from the dam site northward to approximately the present Route 16 bridge.

Facilities will provide for swimming, camping, fishing, boating and hiking.

The Lincoln Heritage Trail passes through the heart of the Reservoir area, covering the spot where the 13 members of the Lincoln family crossed the river on their way through Coles County from Indiana.

Log Cabin Park ⑪

Abraham Lincoln was a frequent visitor in Coles county from 1831 to 1861. Many of these visits were to the Gooseneck Prairie farm of his father, Thomas, and stepmother, Sarah Lincoln. Today the 86-acre site is known as Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, located approximately 10 miles south of Charleston on scenic 4th street road.

Thomas Lincoln purchased the 80-acre farm in 1837 and in 1840 added 40 acres. It was here he and his wife, Sarah, spent their last years.

In 1841, in financial distress, the Lincolns appealed to their son, Abraham, who purchased the east 40 acres from them for a price of \$200 and allowed them to retain a lifetime estate. John J. Hall, a grandson of Mrs. Lincoln with whom she made her home at the time of her death in 1869, purchased the west 80 acres in 1851 and acquired title to the remainder in 1888.

The original cabin was sent to the Chicago Columbian Exposition in 1892 and there it mysteriously disappeared.

After the State acquired the site in 1929 great care was taken to reconstruct the cabin in its exact position and to use existing photographs and affidavits of old settlers to duplicate all its original details. An ash hopper for making lye, long wedges for splitting rails, an ox yoke and a grindstone have been added.

Picnic, cooking, and camping sites are provided, with plenty of play space available. A modern pavilion accompanies the beautiful, rustic buildings and wildlife native to the area.

For information concerning camping sites at the two State parks, Lincoln Log Cabin State park and Fox Ridge State park, please write directly to the parks. Private facilities are also available.

Shiloh Cemetery ⑫

Old Shiloh Cemetery, located 3 miles northwest of Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, contains the graves of Abraham Lincoln's father and stepmother. Thomas Moore was buried there following his death Jan. 5, 1851, and his wife Sarah was placed at his side after her death April 10, 1869. The cemetery also contains the unmarked graves of Matilda Johnson Moore, daughter of Sarah Bush Lincoln, Squire Hall, first husband of Mrs. Moore and John Johnson Hall, a son of Squire and Matilda H. Moore. Mrs. Thomas Lincoln was living with her grandson, John J. Hall, at Gooseneck Prairie at the time of her death.

When President-elect Lincoln, visited his stepmother at Moore House in January, 1861, they went together to the old cemetery to the grave of his father. At that time, it has been told, he found a white oak board and with a saw and axe he made two markers, one for the head and the other for the foot of his father's grave. He then whittled the initials "T. L." on the head board. He cleared off the mound and surroundings and set the tomb markers. These markers were stolen by relic hunters and the graves were unmarked until a white stone was set in 1880. Later it was replaced with a larger stone for Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, with an ornamental fence enclosure.

In 1935 trustees changed the name to the Thomas Lincoln Cemetery.

The cemetery is now the subject of a congressional bill designed to establish the church, cemetery and Lincoln graves as a national land mark.

Moore House ⑬

Just a few miles north of Lincoln Log Cabin State Park on the Lincoln Trail is Moore House owned by the State of Illinois. Located in the former village of Farmington, Moore House is the original home of Mrs. Matilda Johnson Hall Moore, daughter of Mrs. Thomas Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln came here in January, 1861, just

before his inauguration in Washington to dine with his stepmother, stepister, other relatives and friends. This was his last visit to Coles county. Upon this occasion he and his stepmother visited his father's grave at Shiloh cemetery.

Moore House is open to the public and contains many antiques such as a ledger showing prices of items sold around 1860, a contemporary bedstead, a hand loom for carding and spinning linsey woolsey, and farm implements. In the back yard are two large millstones used for grinding grain at Blakeman's Mill, Coles County's first settlement, 1829.

Indian Church ⑭

The Indian Church is located 10 minutes from Moore House. Just south of the Indian Creek Bridge, turn west and go seven miles. Indian Church is on the north.

The first church in this part of the county was built on the Little Indian Creek in 1832. Two years before, on August 30, 1830, the Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Prairie was organized by the Rev. B. F. Spillman. The earliest minister was Reverend Isaac Bennett.

The Rev. John McDonald instituted a log cabin college in his home at the Pleasant Prairie Church and sent forth from that institution three of the early Presbyterian ministers who labored in southern Illinois.

On June 1, 1832, the church members built the church of logs. Two to twelve days of labor was subscribed by each member. One man subscribed 26 spikes and one man, 20 bushels of lime. Flooring was sawn by whip-saw. The church was rebuilt about 15 years later and is today pretty much as it might have been found at the time of Lincoln.

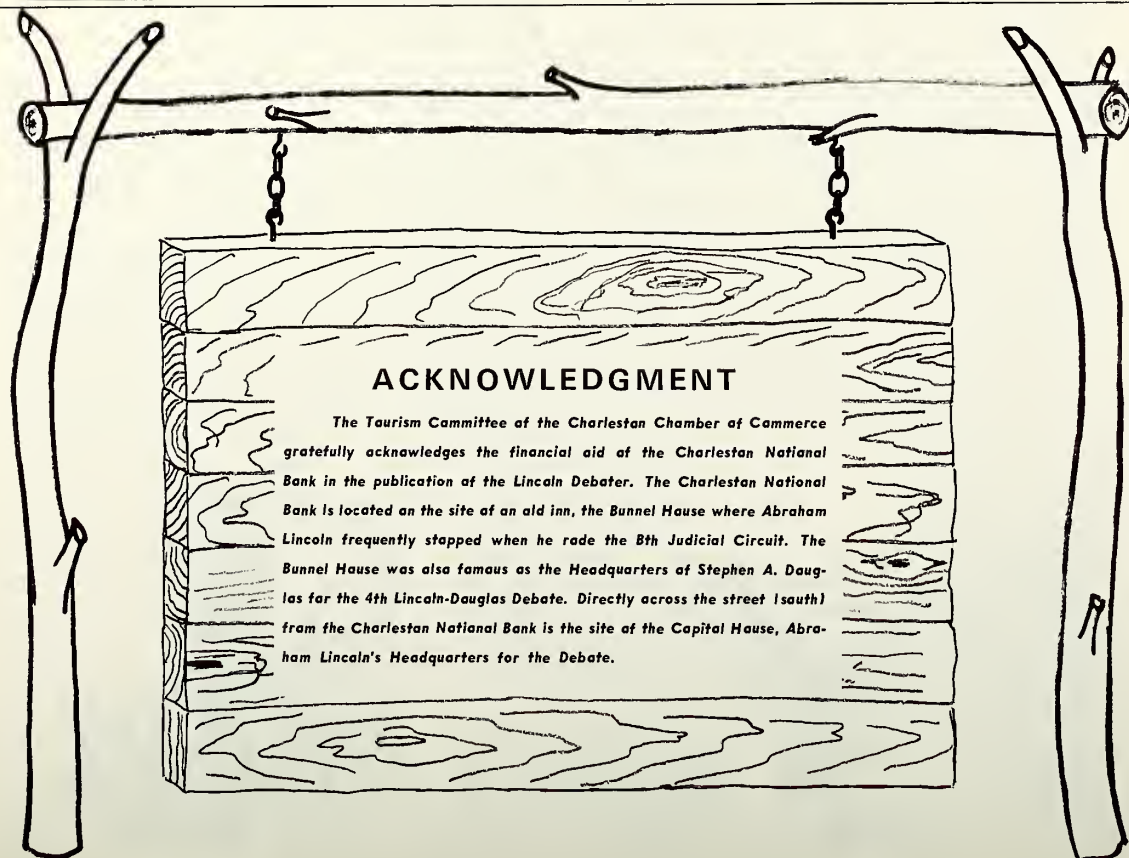
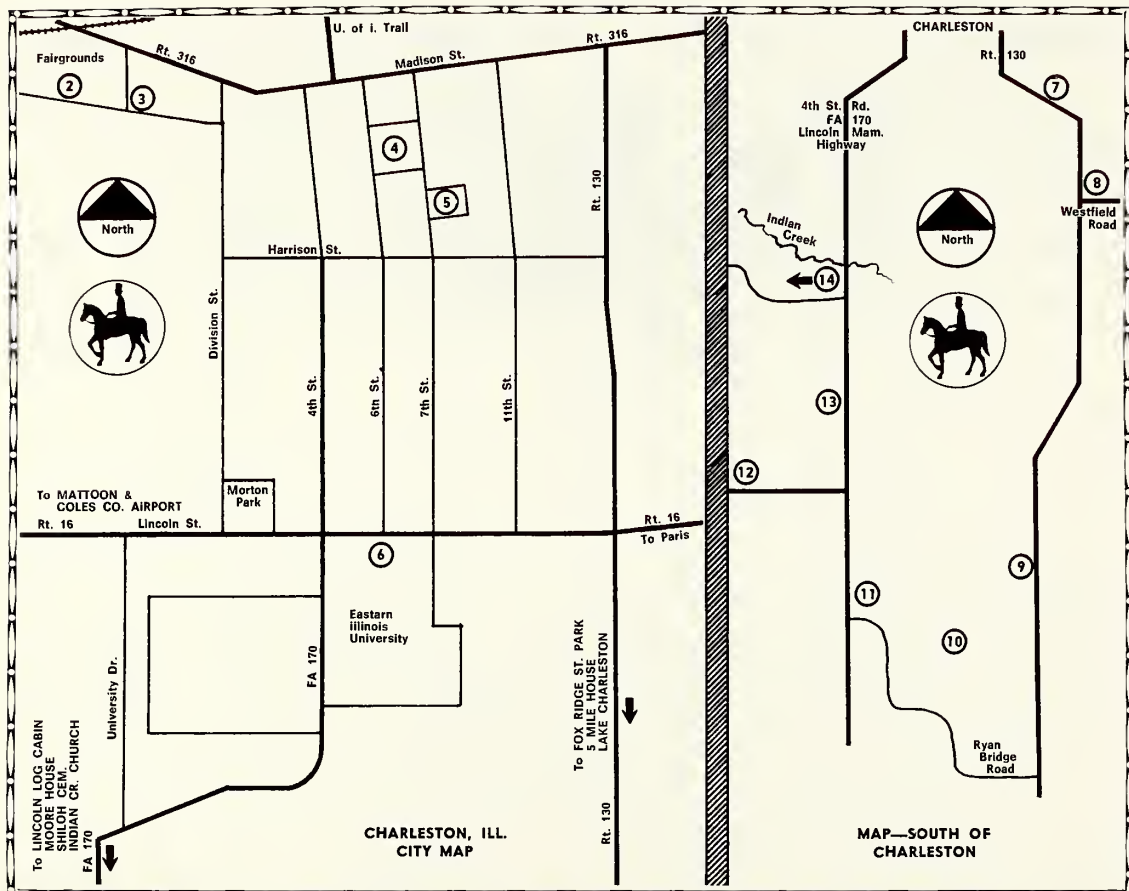
CREDITS

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Tour the Land of Lincoln.

OLD MAIN AT EASTERN ILLINOIS U.






WELCOME TO



ABRAHAM LINCOLN MEMORIAL PARK

CHARLESTON
LLINOIS
THE TALL
STATE

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN MEMORIAL PARK and STATUE is the result of efforts put forth by 20 men over the past few years. These men formed The Charleston Tourism Development Corporation (a non-profit corp.) to further the development of tourism and promote the Charleston area.

Many hundreds of interested people have contributed toward the statue and the development of the Memorial Park.

The location of the Park and Statue is: $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles East of Charleston. The Park will encompass 20 acres of rustic beauty and will over look the proposed Lincoln Reservoir. The site was chosen because of the excellent opportunities for expansion and the need for more parks in the area.

STATUE INFORMATION

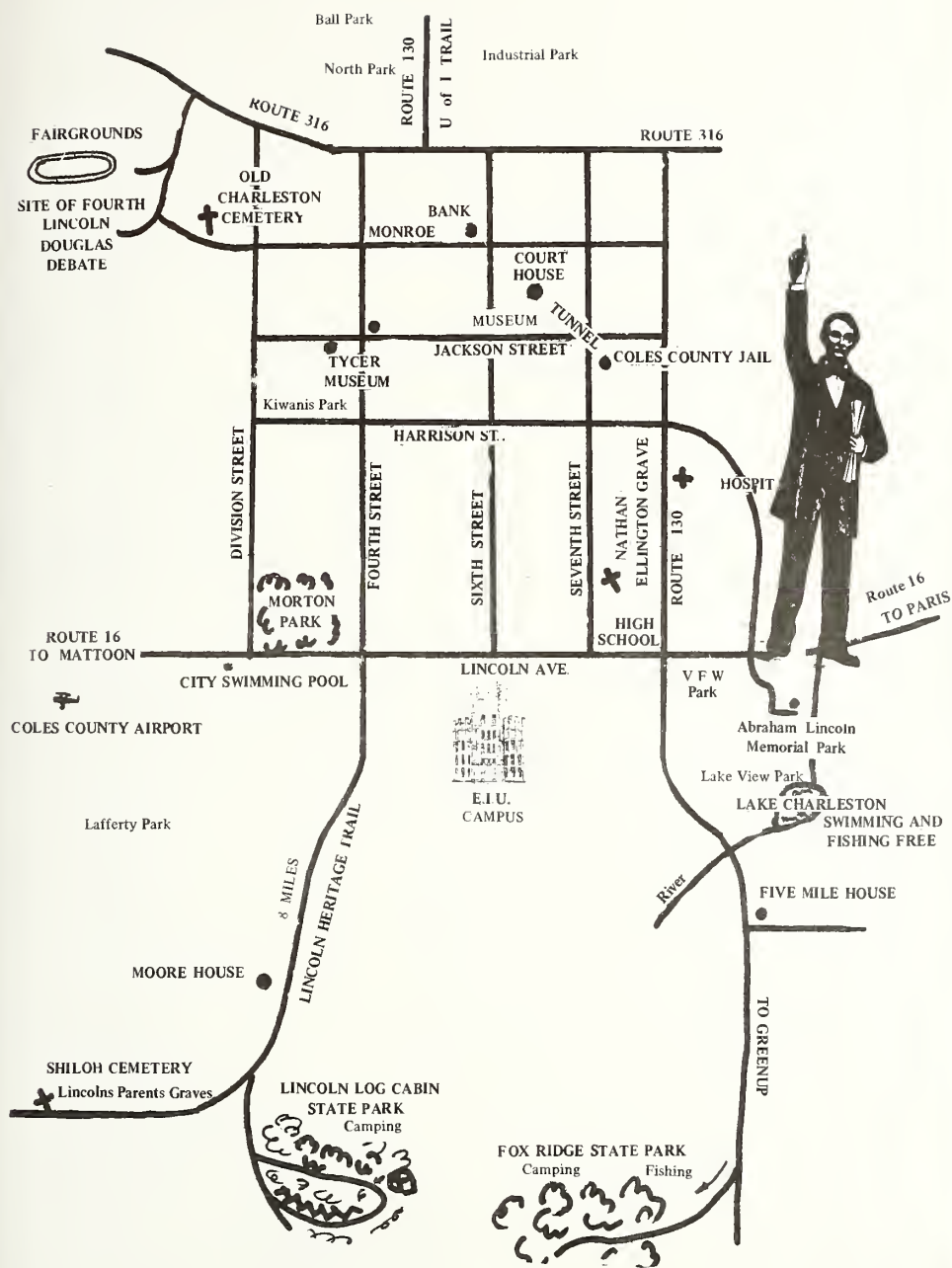
SCULPTURER BOB EGLETT — St. Paul, Minn.
BUILDER GORDON DISPLAY, Inc. — St. Paul, Minn.
TRANSPORTED IN SECTIONS — ASSEMBLED ON SITE
STATUE HEIGHT 62 Feet
STATUE WEIGHT 10 Tons
BASE HEIGHT 4 Feet — 180 yds. Concrete (100 tons)
STATUE EXTERIOR SURFACE HAS A RESILIENT STRENGTH IN
EXCESS OF 17,500 Lbs. per square inch and is DESIGNED TO WITH
STAND WIND VELOCITIES OF 160 Miles per hour.

The growth of the park depends on the continued support of the public through their donations.

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO:

CHARLESTON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

*This brochure is furnished with the compliments of
The Charleston National Bank
hoping that your visit to Charleston and Coles County
has been a pleasant one and that you will come back
and visit us often.*



"ALL THAT I AM, OR HOPE TO BE, I OWE TO MY ANGEL MOTHER."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Abraham Lincoln had many intimate ties in and near Charleston. This was the home of most of his close relatives, including his father and step-mother, Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln. The above quote exemplifies the Deep Feeling of Love and Gratitude Mr. Lincoln had for his adopted Mother. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln lived a few miles southwest of here at the site of what is now Lincoln Log Cabin State Park. They are buried near there at Shiloh Cemetery. Abe Lincoln frequently practiced law at the Coles County Courthouse. One of his most dramatic and historically significant trials, the Matson Slave Case, was tried there. The fourth in his famous debates with Stephen A. Douglas took place at the Coles County Fairgrounds.

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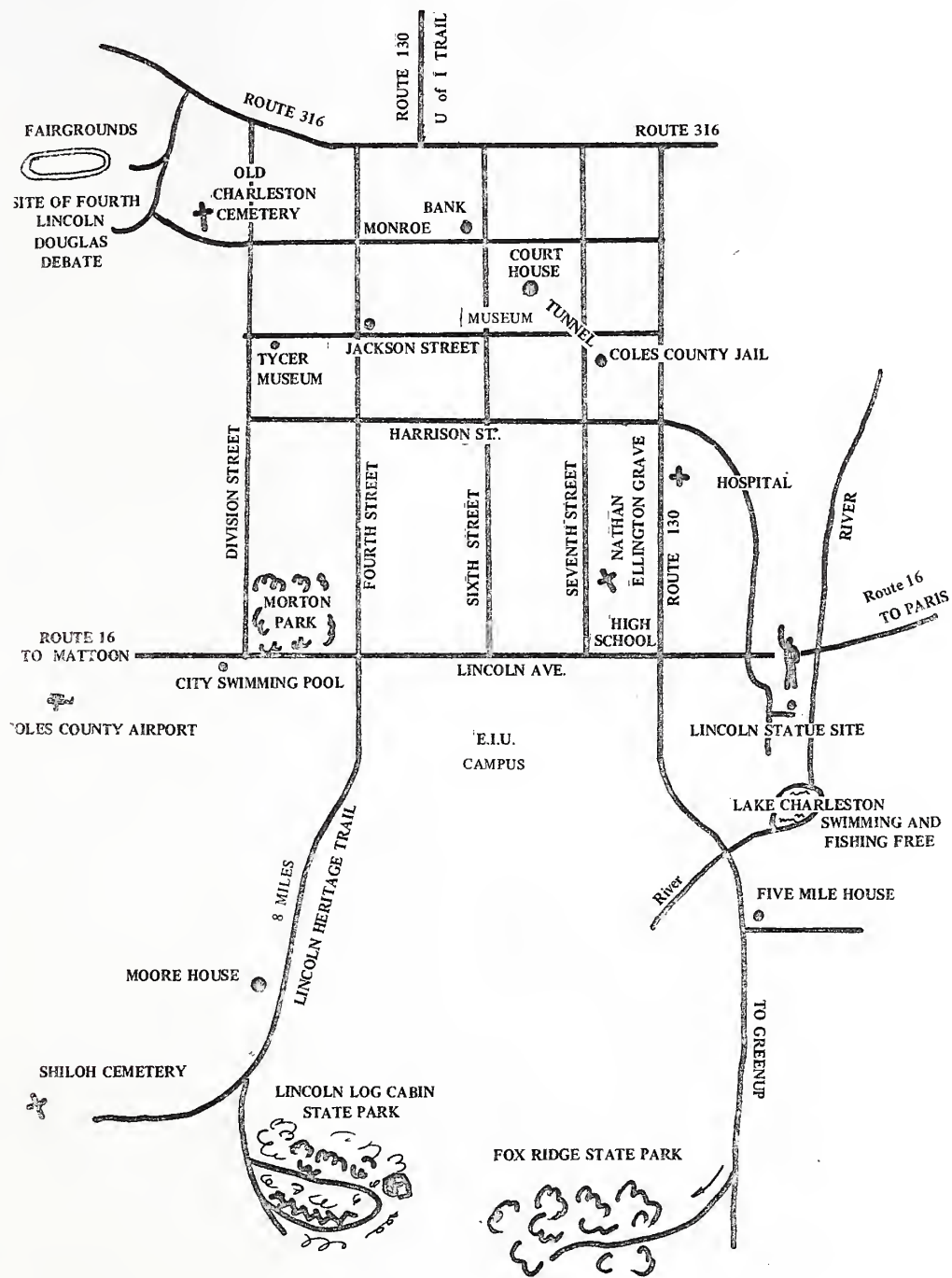
The bank with the time and temperature sign
on the Northwest corner of the square.

Our location is the site of the Bunnell House
where Lincoln stayed when he rode the 8th
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LINCOLN MAKES A MOVE



THE LARGEST statue of Abraham Lincoln in his home state of Illinois has a new home.

The 64-foot-high likeness was moved from an isolated wood because of vandalism. The figure now stands in a beautiful park near Charleston.

